



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,502	07/03/2000	Tomoyasu Katsuyama	9281/3698	1658

757 7590 08/27/2002

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

LESPERANCE, JEAN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2674

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/609,502

Applicant(s)

KATSUYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Jean E Lesperance

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent # 6,249,362 ("Sato et al.") in view of U.S. Patent # 5,504,538 ("Tsujiyama et al. ").

As for claims 1 and 10, Sato et al. teach a processed analog signal that is converted into a digital image signal by an analog digital A/D converter 1031; a reference numeral 130 denotes a black level correction circuit for adjusting the black level of the analog image signal outputted from the CCD 110; 131, an analog digital (A/D) converter for converting the analog image signal whose black level is corrected into the digital image signal. Accordingly, Sato et al. teach all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1 with the exception of providing a blank data generator, an image data combiner and display the output of the image combiner.

However, Tsujiyama et al. teach a blanking period (column 13, line 39) corresponding to a blank data generator; a brightness reference signal is added to the video signal blanking period and applied to the first electrode (column 7, lines 7-9) corresponding to an image data combiner; the BRT reference signal from the BRT reference signal generator 7 that is added to the video signal by the adder 5, and the reference signal-added video signal is output (column 11, lines 18-21) corresponding to

display an output of the image data combiner on said screen.

It would have been obvious to utilize the blanking period, the added signal, and the output image as taught by Tsujihara et al. in the image read system disclosed by Sato et al. because this would provide an adding means for adding a brightness reference signal symmetrically with reference to the black level in the vertical blanking period of the input video signal.

As for claims 2, 7, and 11, Tsujihara et al. teach a variable gain amplifier 17 for feedback control of the contrast (column 8, lines 8-9) corresponding to a variable resistor.

As for claims 3, 8, and 12, Sato et al. teach a signal indicating that the backlight state is detected from the IX information (column 22, lines 61-62) corresponding to an illumination sensor to detect the illumination around a video camera that outputs said analog image signal.

As for claims 4, 9, and 13, Tsujihara et al. teach a BRT reference signal that is added to the pedestal voltage level (black level) of the video signal and the range of upper or lower limits of the added BRT reference signal can be varied according to the type of display device (column 12, lines 44-50).

As for claim 5, Sato et al. teach an electric image signal which is processed with the shading correction enters a gamma correction circuit 43 where contrast of the image is adjusted and the image signal which is presented as ten-bit image data is converted into eight-bit image data. The two images are different.

As for claim 6, Tsujihara et al. teach a bias adjustment adjusting near-black low

light levels, 0% and 25% black level test signals are emitted, and the white balance of near-black low light levels is adjusting using the bias control signal input from the input terminal (column 10, lines 23-26); blanking period (column 13, line 39) corresponding to a blank data generator; a brightness reference signal is added to the video signal blanking period and applied to the first electrode (column 7, lines 7-9) corresponding to an image data combiner; the BRT reference signal from the BRT reference signal generator 7 that is added to the video signal by the adder 5, and the reference signal-added video signal is output (column 11, lines 18-21) corresponding to display an output of the image data combiner on said screen.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Lesperance whose telephone number is (703) 308-6413. The examiner can normally be reached on from Monday to Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on (703) 305-4709 .

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

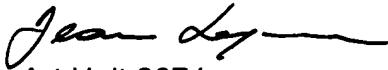
(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Art Unit: 2674

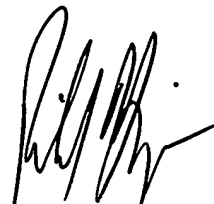
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office Whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Jean Lesperance

  
Art Unit 2674

Date 8-22-2002

  
RICHARD HJERPE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600